



ELKHART, INDIANA 46516 • MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 229 SO. SECOND STREET • (219) 294-5471

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

JAMES P. PERRON, Mayor

November 13, 1992

Deborah L. Orr
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
Waste Management Division
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
HSRL-6J
Chicago, IL 60604

SUBJECT: Comments on North Main Street Wellfield 30% Design

Dear Ms. Orr:

This is in follow-up to our meeting on November 12, 1992 on the above referenced subject. The City of Elkhart has reviewed the 30% design from Warzyn for the installation of two interceptor wells on the west side of the North Main Street wellfield along Edwardsburg Avenue.

The comments listed herein are a reiteration of the comments made at our meeting with the west side PRP group, their consultants, the EPA and its consultant, and city representatives. My first comment was a request for verification that the modeling assumptions used by Donahue for the size and configuration of the interceptor wells on the west side are still on target in view of changing hydraulic conditions. The changed hydraulic condition I refer to is the discontinuation of substantial non-contact cooling water recharged by Miles in the vicinity of Oak and Randolph. For many years the recharge has created a water mound that sometimes reaches the ground surface in the area near Oak and Randolph and Oak and Mishawaka Street. Miles has received an NPDES permit for discharge of the non-contact cooling water to the St. Joseph River. This should result in a substantial lowering of the water table west of the North Main Street wellfield. The City requests a verification that the assumptions of the Donahue model are still valid given this changed hydraulic condition.

We requested the labeling of pipe sizes and materials.



We concurred with the suggested alternative route from the two proposed interceptor wells on Edwardsburg Avenue running east across one of our recharge ponds to the closest access point to the 20" water main leading to the airstripping towers. We further concur in the assumption of 8' of cover over the pipe when we cross under the recharge pond.

We suggest some coordination with the DNR and perhaps the Corp of Engineers regarding this in the recharge pond. The City of Elkhart Water Works historically has notified the DNR whenever we needed to dewater the recharge pond to remove leaves and silt. They have required that we net fish and otherwise minimize any harmful effects of the preventive maintenance activities. We believe it reasonable to dovetail the installation of the water main with our next dredging of the ponds during the early summer of 1993. It is essential that we have the ponds back online before our heavy summer pumpage of July and August, 1993. Related to this crossing, we suggest the use of river crossing pipe for more flexibility at the joints and we suggest a pressure test be applied to this section of pipe before we reactivate the pond, even if the other segments of the water main are not yet ready to put into service.

We requested sampling ports at each of the interceptor wells. These should be insulated and designed in a manner to hold up to severe winter temperatures.

We inquired whether a check valve would be included in the pitless adaptor on the interceptor wells. We suggest that this would be valuable in not losing prime or backspinning the pumps.

Regarding the enclosure for the interceptor wells, we suggested a top with a removable frame or a double-barb configuration to top the fence. We also pointed out that it is essential to maintain at least a 2' setback from curb to avoid conflict with Federal Highway "clear" zones. We further inquired whether the enclosures would fit in the public right-of-way or whether it would be necessary to acquire permanent easements, or some combination of both.

We suggested the installation of running time meters on each of the 30 horse power well pump control panels. In the event of a computer malfunction, we would have a log of how many hours on each pump for purposes of preventive maintenance tracking. We inquired whether there would be a weatherproof, vandalproof NEMA enclosure for the controls at each of the interceptor wells.

Regarding the tie-in pit where the 10" force main will tie in to the existing 20" water main to the airstrippers, we suggested Bilco access doors or equivalent. We also suggested that on the tee coming off the 20", there should be an isolation valve and then the check valve so that we could work on the check valve if it should malfunction, without having to shut down our other production wells.

We suggested early coordination and written confirmation from other local utilities such as I & M, NIPSCO, and GTE that they have received the plans and marked their facilities where there might be any points of conflict. We suggested early coordination on power drops for the motors.


We requested a "materials of construction" specification list for the pipe, the river crossing pipe, and the various valves and appurtenances. Wherever possible, we suggested that named specified brands be the same as those that are currently stocked by the Elkhart Water Works so that we might minimize expense associated with critical parts inventory.

We look forward to being copied on the discussions with regard to the schedule on the work plan versus the Record of Decision. We understand there may be a Letter of Understanding that would become an addendum to the Record of Decision or 106 orders which would modify the schedule to allow time for EPA review with input from the City and other interested parties. We are also interested in receiving the technical memo on the model verification with the changed hydraulic gradient west of the wellfield to verify that the size, depth, and pumping rates for the west side interceptor wells will do the job we expect them to do---protecting the wellfield.

We would also appreciate discussing further with EPA and the PRPs the subject of tighter quality assurance requirements on the laboratory effort as we approach the cleanup standard. We need to quantify the water quality level at which the more rigorous quality assurance standards will be implemented after some unknown period of remediation effort producing results toward the mandated cleanup level.

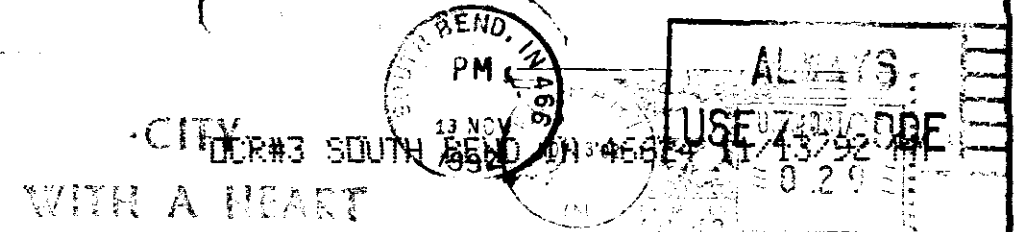
Thank you for the opportunity to input on this. I believe that open communication and good coordination will serve all parties well.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Gilot, P.E.
City Engineer and Director,
Public Works & Utilities

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CITY
WITH A HEART

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